differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations. The two sides reiterate their determination to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question and to build a boundary of peace and friendship on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question concluded in April, 2005. The Special Representatives shall complete at an early date the task of arriving at an agreed framework settlement on the basis of this Agreement".

PM's visit has led to a broadening of our functional cooperation in bilateral areas and to the deepening of mutual understanding between our two countries.

Outcome of PM's visit to China

265. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of Prime Minister's visit to China;

(b) whether there was any further discussion to stop diversion of Tsangpo, the source of river Brahmaputra for the greater benefit of the people of North-Eastern Region; and

(c) whether the recent visit of Prime Minister has resolved Chinese intrusion which has taken place particularly in Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited China from 13 to 15 January, 2008. PM held official talks with Premier Wen Jiabao and had separate meetings with Chines President Hu Jintao and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Wu Bangguo.

PM and Premier Wen Jiabao signed a joint document on 'A Shared Vision for the 21st Century between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China'. They also witnessed signing of ten other documents covering cooperation in various fields, namely: for Cooperation between the Planning Commission and National Development and Reform Commission of China; on Cooperation between the two Ministries of Railways; MoU between Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation of India and Ministry of Construction, PRC; for Cooperation in Land Resource Management, Land Administration and Rehabilitation; MoU on Joint Medical Mission to commemorate the Indian Medical Mission to China between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC); MoU for cooperation between ICCR and CPAFFC; on Cooperation in the area of Geo-sciences; on Cooperation in traditional medicine; MoU on mutual cooperation between NABARD and Agricultural Development Bank of China; and Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Tobacco Leaves from India to China.

Both sides agreed that India-China relations are of regional and global significance. They recognised their 'significant historical responsibility to ensure comprehensive, balanced and sustainable economic and social development of the two countries and to promote peace and development in Asia and the world as a whole. India-China relations are not targeted at any country, nor will it affect their friendship with other countries'.

Both sides agreed to intensify further high-level exchanges between the leaders of the two countries. Both sides agreed that the Foreign Ministers of India and China will exchange visits in 2008. They also agreed to continue deepening the mutual understanding and trust between the armed forces and welcomed the successful conclusion of the first joint military training exercise and agreed to hold a second exercise in India in 2008. It was decided to increase the bilateral trade target from 40 billion US dollars by 2010 to 60 billion US dollars. The two Prime Ministers mandated their Ministers of Commerce to examine the Feasibility Study on the benefits of a Regional Trading Arrangement and make recommendations at an early date. It was also decided to establish a high-level Business Leaders Forum to advise the two Prime Ministers on the future of economic ties. PM conveyed India's appreciation for China's assistance inproviding flood season data for some trans-border rivers. Both leaders agreed to expand cooperation in this area through the Expert Level Mechanism. In pursuance of the India-China Science & Technology Partnership agreed during the visit of Chinese President to India in November 2006, both sides have now identified earthquake engineering, disaster management, climate change, biotechnology and nano-sciences as areas for further cooperation in the priority area of science and technology.

The Boundary Question was also discussed during PM's visit. The two Prime Ministers said, "The two sides remain firmly committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations. The two sides reiterate their determination to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question and to build a boundary of peace and friendship on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question concluded in April, 2005. The Special Representatives shall complete at an early date the task of arriving at an agreed framework settlement on the basis of this Agreement".

PM's visit has led to a broadening of our functional cooperation in bilateral areas and to the deepening of mutual understanding between our two countries.

(b) The two Prime Ministers also discussed bilateral cooperation on trans-border rivers. They welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism in September, 2007 in Beijing. The two Prime Ministers said, "the two sides also welcome their efforts to set an example on trans-border rivers by commencing cooperation in 2002. The Indian side highly appreciates the assistance extended by China on the provision of flood season hydrological data, which has assisted India in ensuring the safety and security of its population along these rivers. The two sides agree that this has contributed positively to building mutual understanding and trust". The Chinese side have specifically denied reports that they are undertaking projects to divert waters of River Brahmaputra.

(c) China disputes the international boundary between India and China. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on

the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question. In the meantime, pending a final settlement, both sides have agreed to clarify the LAC and to take up perceived violations through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels.

Rising number of poor people

266. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Five Year Plan document has sounded an alert on increasing poverty in a season of gravity-defying surges that saw the Sensex scale beyond 20,000 points;

(b) if so, whether the plan draft has shown that in States — UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Orissa— the number of poor people has risen although overall poverty has fallen;

(c) whether this document was discussed at the Planning Commission meeting in November, 2007; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to reduce the number of poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan Document has reported the following trends of poverty in the country:

Percentage of people below poverty line in India (1973—2004)

Year	Rural	Urban	Combined
1973	56.44	49.01	54.88
1983	45.65	40.79	44.48
1993	37.27	32.36	35.97
2004	28.30	25.70	27.50

(b) It has been observed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan Document that in some States, the absolute numbers of the poor in the population, has actually increased over the last three decades: In Uttar Pradesh from 535.7 lakhs in 1973 to 590 lakhs in 2004-05; in Rajasthan from 128.5 lakhs to 134.9 lakhs; in Maharashtra from 287.4 lakhs to 317.3 lakhs and Nagaland 2.9 lakhs to 3.9 lakhs. The total number of poor has also increased in Madhya Pradesh (and Chhattisgarh taken together) from 276 lakhs to 340 lakhs and in Bihar (and Jharkhand) from 370 lakhs to 485 lakhs over the same period. There are many States where the number of